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REMARKS/ARGUMENT

I. STATUS OF THE PENDING CLAIMS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 29-30, 32-51 and 53-54 are pending in the application. Claims 26, 31, 52 and 55-56 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 37, 48 and 53 have been amended for allowability. Claims 29, 32-34, 36, 38, 40-41, 45-47 and 49-50 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 37. Claims 51 and 54 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 53.

Claims 26, 29-36, 38, 41-46, 49-52 and 54-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,485,620 to Sadre et al. ("Sadre"). Claim 39 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sadre in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,837,722 to Sara ("Sara"). Claim 40 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sadre in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,295,606 to Messerges et al. ("Messerges"). Claim 47 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sadre.

Claims 37, 48 and 53 were considered allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for his thorough Examination of the application.

II. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants request that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A that accompanied the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 5, 2006.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has indicated that claims 37, 48 and 53 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, claims 37, 48 and 53 have been amended to be placed in condition for allowance as independent claims in order to expedite prosecution of the pending application. Dependent claims 29, 32-34, 36, 38, 40-41, 45-47 and 49-50 have also been amended to depend from now allowable claim 37. In addition, dependent claims 51 and 54 have been amended to depend from now allowable claim 53. Claims 26, 31, 52 and 55-56 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

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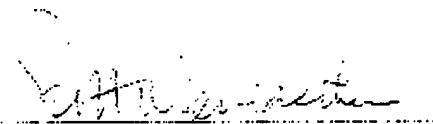
Applicants respectfully submit that claims 37, 48 and 53, as amended, along with claims 29-30, 32-36, 38-47, 49-51 and 54 which depend from them, are now in condition for allowance, as indicated by the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 29-30, 32-51 and 53-54 are pending in the application. Applicants submit that the claims, for the reasons set forth above, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are therefore respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

Dated: June 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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